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Chair: Mr. Mac-Donald ..... (Suriname)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

Statement by the Chair

1. **The Chair** called on the Committee to focus on the substantive issues related to the items on its agenda, as it was privileged to considered issues that directly affected humanity. While members might have different views as to the priorities of achieving social development goals or implementing the rights of vulnerable groups, he was convinced that the Committee could find common ground to advance the situation of rights holders. He welcomed the webcasting of all formal meetings of the main Committees, which allowed for transparent outreach to the constituencies they represented. That option was not readily available in all countries, however, as recalled recently during the general debate of the General Assembly. If United Nations deliberations were truly conducted on their behalf, the peoples of the world should be provided with the opportunity to follow those debates. With that in mind, a joint event was being planned for the Second and Third Committees focusing on the use of broadband and information and communications technologies (ICT) to advance the goals of social and economic development as well as the Millennium Development Goals.

Organization of work (A/67/250, A/C.3/67/1, A/C.3/67/L.1 and A/C.3/67/L.1/Add.1/Rev.1)

2. **The Chair** said that the letter from the President of the General Assembly concerning the agenda items allocated to the Third Committee was contained in document A/C.3/67/1. The list of documents issued under each agenda item was contained in A/C.3/67/L.1/Add.1/Rev.1. Recalling the guidelines concerning the conduct of the Committee's work in chapter II of A/66/250 and the provision in paragraph 25 thereof for webcasting of all formal meetings, he underlined the importance of punctuality and adherence to time limits for statements and rights of reply and to deadlines for submission of proposals and inscription on the list of speakers.

3. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) noted some changes made to the programme of work (A/C.3/67/L.1) and drew delegations' attention to changes in documentation before the Committee contained in A/C.3/67/L.1/Add.1/Rev.1.

4. **The Chair** proposed that the Committee should respect the timetable to the extent possible in order to maximize the time and resources available to the Committee, with the understanding that adjustments would be made as warranted. Delegations initiating draft proposals should inform the Secretary of the Committee or a member of the Bureau and those sponsoring draft resolutions that involved lengthy negotiations should prepare them as early as possible and observe deadlines scrupulously. Following past practice, the Committee would maintain a rolling list of speakers and delegations should be ready to take the floor earlier than scheduled, if necessary. Any speaker absent when scheduled to speak, would be placed at the end of the list unless a change of time had been agreed in a timely manner with another delegation. Statements would be limited to 15 minutes for delegations speaking on behalf of a group of States and to 7 minutes for those speaking in a national capacity.

5. **Mr. Gustafik** (Secretary of the Committee) read out the list of special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council, Chairs of treaty bodies and of working groups, independent experts and Special Representatives of the Secretary-General who would submit reports to the Committee during the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

6. **The Chair** said that he took it that, following past practice, the Committee wished to extend invitations to special procedures mandate holders of the Human Rights Council, Chairs of treaty bodies or working groups and others, to submit their reports to, and interact with, the Committee.

7. *It was so decided.*

8. **The Chair** said that he took it that the Committee wished to approve the organization of work as contained in documents A/C.3/67/L.1 and Add.1/Rev.1 as orally corrected by the Secretary, subject to amendment.

9. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 131: Programme planning

10. **The Chair** said that the Committee would review and take action on Programme 20 (Human rights) of the proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015, contained in document A/67/6 (Prog. 20). The Committee for Programme and Coordination had been unable to complete its review of the amendments

proposed by delegations and its conclusions and recommendations were contained in document A/67/16. He had appointed two facilitators to guide informal consultations: Mr. de Léon Huerta of Mexico and Mr. Monzer Selim of Egypt.

Agenda item 27: Social development

(a) Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (A/67/179)

(b) Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family (A/67/61-E/2012/3, A/67/211 and A/67/153)

(c) Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing (A/67/188)

11. **Mr. Wu** Hongbo (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) said that it was imperative for the Committee to find practical solutions to the ongoing c' llenges in tackling social, development and human rights issues. With the date for meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) fast approaching, several targets had been met and noteworthy improvements had been made in many areas. While the significance of those achievements should not be underestimated, it must be recognized that multifaceted challenges remained ahead. Rising inequality affected vulnerable groups: young people accounted for 40 per cent of the 200 million jobless persons worldwide, and women, indigenous peoples, children and older persons continued to be disproportionately affected by the socio-economic repercussions of global crises.

12. As recognized at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20 Conference), equitable and inclusive development called for opportunities. Decisive steps must be taken to create job opportunities on a sustainable basis; youth employment in particular could be stimulated through innovative solutions drawing on the cooperative enterprise model. Social and economic policies must be designed taking into account women's rights and interests. Inequalities affecting vulnerable groups must be addressed by guaranteeing access to basic rights and truly implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and initiatives such as the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. Furthermore, effective social protection systems must be maintained, given that they stabilized economies and buffered against the effects of economic downturn.

13. Accelerating progress towards achievement of the MDGs remained the priority. The United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 would build on the successes and experiences of the MDGs and, with input from all partners, would hold at its core sustainable development and its social dimensions. He looked forward to the Committee's guidance on that development agenda.

14. **Ms. Bas** (Director, Social Policy and Development Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs), introducing the reports of the Secretary-General under agenda items 27 (a), (b) and (c), said that the report on implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (A/67/179) provided an overview of the discussions of the Commission for Social Development at its fiftieth session. The report had found that while the Goal of eradicating poverty and hunger had been met globally, progress was uneven, with a number of regions and countries lagging behind as a result of growing inequalities, low job creation and agricultural productivity and other impacts of climate change. The socioeconomic impacts of recent global crises underscored the urgent need for more effective and empowering policies. Furthermore, it was essential for countries to ensure greater coherence of economic and social policies and to mobilize more resources, which would allow them to increase public spending on social sectors and build more resilient economies. Countries and development partners should also explore ways to leverage official development assistance more effectively and to scale up existing mechanisms to support the MDGs.

15. The creation of productive employment and decent work should be the central objective of macroeconomic policies. Governments should consider implementing a social protection floor, which would ensure universal access to social protection, and address patterns of inequality, discrimination and social exclusion by including all segments of society, disadvantaged groups in particular, in decision-making processes.

16. The report on the progress made on the implementation of policies and programmes related to persons with disabilities within the framework of the Millennium Development Goals (A/67/211) highlighted the importance of the 2013 General Assembly High-level Meeting on Disability and Development, the aim of which was to promote the mainstreaming of disability in the development agenda and a disability-inclusive development framework beyond 2015. The report identified priority action areas and recommended the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities as a prerequisite for inclusive, sustainable and equitable development.

17. The report on the preparations for observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014 (A/67/61-E/2012/3) concluded that social isolation and ageism were the major challenges to social integration in later life and recommended a more coordinated approach to allow older persons to continue to contribute to socioeconomic development. Also recommending further development and implementation of family-oriented policies and sharing of good practices, the report illustrated the value of a family focus in development efforts and advocated expanding family-centred benefits. Governments and other stakeholders were encouraged to comply with the relevant International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions to ensure work-family balance.

18. The report on the implementation of the follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing (A/67/188) highlighted a number of elements that were essential for building a society in which older persons were fully integrated and were given opportunities to participate effectively in development processes.

19. **Mr. Llopart** (Chief, United Nations Volunteers Office, New York), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations contained in General Assembly resolutions 63/153 and 66/67 (A/67/153), said that the report reviewed the overall progress made, highlighted the publication of the first State of the World's Volunteerism Report and provided details on the activities undertaken in 2011 to mark the tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers.

20. The report, which had been prepared using feedback from 10 United Nations agencies and a online global public survey among various stakeholders, focused on four key areas: recognition and promotion; facilitation; networking; and integration of volunteerism. It found that the accelerated momentum in those areas had strengthened the positive trend of including volunteerism in development strategies. The report also recognized that global development goals could not be achieved without individual and community voluntary action. The first State of the World's Volunteerism Report had underlined the positive effect of volunteerism, which the United Nations Volunteer (UNV) programme recognized as a substantial, albeit unnoticed, renewable resource for addressing key peace and development challenges such as poverty reduction and inclusive and sustainable development.

21. The report put forward a number of fundamental recommendations with regard to volunteerism, including the need to step up efforts to engage academia and civil society; facilitate volunteerism at the national level; ensure the protection and security of volunteers; promote and facilitate South-South and expatriate national volunteering; launch a global youth volunteer corps, spread youth volunteering schemes and contribute to the UNV trust fund; incorporate volunteerism into education curricula; prioritize governmental support for disaster risk management frameworks that integrated volunteer contributions; include volunteer action in policies and programmes aimed at conflict prevention and response; encourage private and public sector support; improve the recognition of volunteers' contribution to the mission and work of the United Nations; and incorporate the influence of volunteerism on well-being as an indicator of progress in the sustainable development agenda beyond 2015.

22. While the tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers had given new impetus to support for volunteerism and its role in development, continued focus on the four key areas was needed. Defining a road map for a United Nations decade on volunteering would provide a good framework for further coordinated initiatives to strengthen national, regional and global alliances and networks of volunteers and partners.

23. **Mr. Mourad** (Algeria), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that despite significant progress in a number of areas, greater effort was required to achieve mutual goals in the field of social development. The Secretary-General's report had shown that the achievement of the three main pillars of

the World Summit for Social Development remained a persistent global challenge, and the Group fully shared the recommendations for urgent and more effective action. The multiple interrelated global crises and the challenges posed by climate change were a particular concern, as they all had major negative implications for social development and undermined further the achievement of internationally agreed development goals.

24. In the light of those continuing challenges, implementation of the commitments made at the Summit was more urgent than ever. The Group of 77 and China reaffirmed its commitment to implementing the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action and other social development initiatives adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session. It also welcomed the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

25. Cooperation from the international community and development partners was crucial to the realization of development goals. The Group of 77 and China thus called for strengthened international cooperation and for fulfilment by developed countries of their commitments with regard to official development assistance, debt relief, market access, capacity-building, technology transfer and technical support. It urged the international community once again to take further effective measures to remove the obstacles to the realization of the right to self-determination of peoples living under colonial and foreign occupation, which adversely affected their economic and social development.

26. Particular attention should be given to persons with disabilities and further action taken to promote their rights. The High-Level Meeting to be held during the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly in 2013 would provide an invaluable opportunity to review development policy from a disability perspective and strengthen commitment to ensuring the rights, inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities.

27. Well-focused policies and action should also be put in place to address the ageing of the population and the discrimination, violence and poverty to which the elderly were often subjected. The Group of 77 and China noted with great concern the cuts to social spending in many Member States as a result of the global financial crisis, which adversely affected the social protection provided to older persons. Urgent action was needed at the current session to accelerate the implementation of the Madrid Plan of Action on Ageing.

28. The Group of 77 and China welcomed the continued focus on young people and called upon Member States, the United Nations system and relevant stakeholders to implement fully the recommendations contained in the outcome document of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding. It also noted with satisfaction that since the proclamation of the International Year of the Family in 1994, the international community had undertaken a range of activities and commitments in support of those objectives. Activities marking the twentieth anniversary should provide a useful opportunity to strengthen national family-centred policies and programmes. Similarly, the Group of 77 and China welcomed the activities undertaken in connection with the International Year of Cooperatives and called on all actors to continue to promote cooperatives and raise awareness of their contribution to social and economic development.

29. **Mr. Tommo Monthe** (Cameroon), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States, said that, with regard to persons with disabilities, the second session of the African Union Conference of Ministers responsible for social development, held in November 2010, had resulted in a series of ministerial decisions containing clear directives with measurable outcomes. Moreover, the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities (1999-2009) had given fresh impetus to the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons adopted by the General Assembly on 3 December 1982 and had strengthened regional cooperation on the matters covered by the United Nations Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities. All stakeholders, in both the private and public sectors, as well as international organizations and United Nations agencies, should provide for the full participation, equality and empowerment of persons with disabilities on the African continent. Currently, only 1-2 per cent of Africans with disabilities had access to care, rehabilitation and education services and many of them — especially those in rural areas — struggled even to survive owing to a lack of support and resources. As a result, the African Decade of Persons with Disabilities

had been extended to 2019. In addition, the African Union Commission would review the African Union Plan of Action of the Decade of Persons with Disabilities to include emerging disability issues and a midterm review of the Decade would be conducted in 2014.

30. The period 2009-2018 had in turn been declared the African Youth Decade in order to advance the youth development agenda throughout the continent, boost investment in youth development programmes and increase support for the development and implementation of national youth policies and programmes. During the Year of African Youth in 2008, African countries had established non-formal training programmes in post-conflict states, strengthened youth organizations by revitalizing the Pan-African Youth Union and developed a plan of action to promote youth development through the effective implementation of the African Youth Charter promulgated in 2006. Despite those initiatives, young people continued to be marginalized in African labour markets as countries struggled to create jobs for a growing population.

31. Under the African Union Policy Framework and Plan of Action on Ageing in Africa adopted in 2002, Member States had undertaken to develop national policies on ageing to improve the lives of the continent's older people, who should be engaged in the relevant consultations so that the policies adopted could be tailored to the national situation. Furthermore, ongoing advocacy efforts would help to attract the resources required to implement commitments made.

32. Social development continued to be at the top of the African agenda, as reflected in the Social Policy Framework for Africa adopted in 2009. Under the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), African States were forging ahead with the continent's social and economic development; the Group called upon its partners to step up their efforts to that end.

33. Lastly, in the view of his Group, regional groups, especially those represented by Member States, should take the floor before regional groups that were representing themselves. Consultations should continue to be held on that matter.

34. **Mr. Haniff** (Malaysia), speaking on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that the Association was working to establish a people-centred, socially responsible community by 2015 and to improve quality of life based on the principles of sustainable development. To that end, the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint had identified seven priority areas for action, including poverty alleviation, tackling the negative impacts of integration and globalization, food security, access to health care and the control of communicable diseases.

35. In its efforts to promote social justice and mainstream people's rights into policies and in all spheres of life, ASEAN was focusing on protecting the rights of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, promoting the rights of migrant workers and developing corporate social responsibility. At the recent Eighth ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Social Welfare and Development, Member States had undertaken to strengthen cooperation and exchange information and experiences in order to better address issues affecting disadvantaged groups. Other recent initiatives included the adoption of the ASEAN Strategic Framework for Social Welfare and Development (2011-2015), the establishment of the ASEAN Decade of Persons with Disabilities (2011-2020) and the adoption of the Bali Declaration on the Enhancement of the Role and Participation of Persons with Disabilities in the ASEAN Community in 2011.

36. At the Ninth ASEAN and Japan High-level Officials Meeting on Caring Societies held in October 2011, members had resolved to create holistic solutions to the problems faced by vulnerable groups and to promote the active participation of all stakeholders so that older persons and people with disabilities could continue contributing to social and economic development on the basis of full integration. Partnerships had been established between Governments, private sector bodies and civil societies, which reflected the recognition that disadvantaged and vulnerable groups needed to be represented at all levels of society in order to promote compliance with relevant guidelines such as the MDGs.

37. At the Seventh ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth, held in 2011, ASEAN member countries had endorsed Malaysia's proposal to develop an ASEAN youth volunteer programme, which was designed to provide volunteering opportunities for young people that would help to improve communities throughout the region with the goal of turning volunteerism into a tool for social development. Further progress on youth matters had been made at the ASEAN Youth Forum held in April 2012, which had given rise to priority

areas in which young people could contribute more actively to creating prosperity.

38. **Ms. Rambally** (Saint Lucia), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that the Caribbean countries were struggling to achieve their sustainable development and poverty-reduction goals because of the impact of climate change, which constituted the most serious threat to their territorial integrity, viability and survival. Poverty eradication was inextricably linked to social integration, full employment and decent work for all. It was therefore crucial to develop macroeconomic and social policies to create productive employment and decent work as the principle way out of poverty into sustained economic growth. It was also necessary to maintain social protection programmes, boost investment in education, health, agriculture and infrastructure and mobilize domestic resources complemented by official development assistance. Social development objectives could be achieved only through the empowerment of vulnerable groups and their participation in decision-making processes.

39. Caribbean countries had adopted a range of initiatives designed to integrate the MDGs into national development and social and economic advancement, although the food and energy crises of 2007-2008 had caused some setbacks. For example, high unemployment was threatening social stability. CARICOM Heads of Government had therefore resolved to develop a Caribbean investment programme to encourage stabilization, growth and competitive production. CARICOM also coordinated the ongoing national efforts to address social challenges relating to climate change, education and health.

40. CARICOM was committed to strengthening partnerships and dialogue with young people as agents of development, social inclusion, tolerance and peace. It had celebrated Caribbean Youth Day on 1 October 2012 as part of the CARICOM Youth Development Action Plan 2012-2017, which was designed to create a secure, valued and empowered youth that would realize their full potential and contribute to a sustainable Caribbean community. Another initiative, the CARICOM Youth Ambassadors Programme, was designed to facilitate the participation of young people in regional decision-making. Furthermore, a high-level youth exchange between CARICOM youth leaders and those from the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) had taken place in June 2012 with the aim of increasing youth participation in development.

41. In view of the demographic transition taking place, CARICOM had adopted the Caribbean Charter on Health and Ageing in 1999 as a coordinated, systematic approach to ensure the health, full integration and participation of older persons in Caribbean societies and economies. Measures were also being implemented at the national level to foster supportive environments for older persons. With regard to persons with disabilities, CARICOM promoted collaboration with relevant stakeholders. Moreover, the Charter of Civil Society for the Caribbean Community guaranteed the rights of persons with disabilities and CARICOM countries were working to implement and monitor the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

42. Lastly, CARICOM was preparing to mark the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2014. Its member countries were working at the national, regional and global levels to accelerate the pace of sustainable social growth for the benefit of people throughout the Caribbean region.

43. **Mr. Ntwaagae** (Botswana), speaking on behalf of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), said that greater integration was a key goal under the region's strategic plan for sustained socioeconomic development and improved well-being and quality of life. However, efforts to achieve social development objectives continued to be hampered by the effects of the global economic and financial crisis, food insecurity and climate change. Poverty in the region was particularly acute among vulnerable groups and, in an attempt to eradicate that scourge, all countries in the Community had made poverty alleviation the central objective of their national development plans and policies. Regional initiatives included the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP) and the 2008 SADC Declaration on Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development. SADC Member States had also implemented a series of initiatives designed to promote macroeconomic stability and sustained economic growth combined with improvements in social services. In addition, in August 2010, it had approved the establishment of a SADC poverty observatory to monitor regional progress in eradicating poverty.

44. Agricultural productivity and rural development were essential to promote economic growth and improve quality of life in rural areas, ensure food security and create stronger markets that could withstand shocks. SADC Heads of State and Government therefore urged Member States to take steps to ensure sustainable food security in accordance with the Dar es Salaam Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security.

45. High unemployment, especially among young people, had prompted SADC countries to give priority to job creation and improved access to formal education, training programmes and self-employment, and to adopt policies and programmes to establish, strengthen and expand social protection systems. On the health front, further measures were needed to tackle the HIV/AIDS pandemic, which remained a major challenge in the SADC region and required innovative responses at all levels.

46. Efforts to tackle issues affecting persons with disabilities were gaining momentum in the region and many SADC Member States had ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, while others were working towards that goal. The rights of persons with disabilities should be safeguarded and measures implemented to promote their inclusion in the development agenda. Lastly, the SADC region welcomed ongoing support from the international community in its efforts to eradicate poverty, especially among vulnerable groups.

47. **Mr. Mayr-Harting** (Observer for the European Union), speaking also on behalf of the acceding country Croatia; the candidate countries Iceland, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the countries of the stabilization and association process and potential candidate countries Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina; and, in addition, Armenia, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that economic recovery and social development went hand in hand and that employment and social policies therefore needed to be linked. The Europe 2020 strategy had laid the foundations for a strong and more balanced recovery from the global crisis and its targets were being used to build a new economic and social model that was both sustainable and inclusive. As part of that Strategy, the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion had been launched in an attempt to lift millions of people in the European Union out of poverty and social exclusion by 2020.

48. Government efforts to meet the MDGs had to be strategic, innovative and based on a broad social development agenda that included improvements in health conditions and investment in human capital. The sustainable development agenda encompassed social, economic and environmental dimensions. Gender equality and the empowerment and advancement of women should be at the centre of the agenda for both social and economic development. The European Union Member States would therefore continue to work with other Governments in their efforts to promote gender equality, as well as with the International Labour Organization to promote social protection and decent work for all.

49. Member States must continue to implement the World Programme of Action for Youth at the local, national, regional and international levels. Under the European Union Youth Strategy of 2009 and the Youth on the Move initiative, European Union member States were working to address the serious challenges faced by young people in accessing the labour market. Efforts were also being made to address issues affecting older persons, as well as persons with disabilities. More than three quarters of European Union member States had ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the European Commission was implementing the European Disability Strategy 2010-2020, which was designed to break down the multiple barriers encountered by persons with disabilities.

50. **Mr. Gálvez** (Chile), speaking on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), said that the Community was deeply committed to promoting social inclusion and integration as one of the three basic, interdependent pillars of social development, together with poverty eradication and full, productive employment and decent work for all. However, strong commitments by all Governments and societies were needed, combined with universal recognition of all human rights, including the right to development and equality. The benefits of economic growth should be distributed more equitably and access to basic universal services improved. Core human needs should be met through integrated development strategies and measures implemented to overcome poverty.

51. It was essential that the global economic and financial crisis did not result in a reduction in development financing and official development assistance. In the aftermath of the crisis, States should continue to focus on creating decent work opportunities, especially for young people and older persons, and policies should continue to guarantee basic social investment in health and education. Social protection policies were crucial to combating poverty, vulnerability and persistent inequalities. The international community should also continue making concerted efforts at the multilateral and regional levels to overcome the food crisis and promote rural development and agricultural production with a view to combating hunger and poverty, which constituted the worst human rights violations. In particular, developed countries were urged to improve access to the export markets of developing countries, further reduce the burden of external debt and facilitate foreign direct investment and technology transfer.

52. With regard to older persons, the international community should pay more attention to population ageing, including the promotion and protection of the rights of older persons. It should also address the increasing prevalence of non-communicable diseases, which was affecting countries worldwide but especially developing countries and low- and middle-income countries. National and international measures designed to promote decent work and combat poverty should encompass the principles of equality, inclusion and social integration of all vulnerable or marginalized groups, as well as the gender perspective. Full employment for women, including in rural areas, was crucial to achieving comprehensive economic and social development. Policies on young people were also vital and CELAC would continue promoting a comprehensive programme for young people at the regional and international levels.

53. CELAC welcomed the adoption of General Assembly resolution 66/296 on the organization of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly, to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, to be held in September 2014. It also actively promoted the full social, political, economic and cultural inclusion and integration of persons with disabilities. With regard to migration, international, regional and bilateral cooperation and dialogue were required to ensure that the human rights of all migrants were guaranteed. Lastly, the multidimensional nature of poverty meant that new, effective strategies were needed if countries were to achieve the MDGs.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.